

REMARKS

The applicant requests entry of the enclosed amendment in connection with the filing of a Request for Continued Prosecution, which is also enclosed herewith.

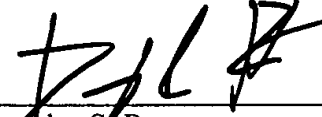
Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 23 have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter of the present application. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally filed claims, specification and figures. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

The claim amendments should overcome the Examiner's confusion set forth in the April 8, 2003 Advisory Action.

With respect to the assertion that the specification only describes the attraction of the particles onto, rather than into, the polymeric material, the applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to the specification, wherein the particles are described as immobilized "in the polymeric material, whereby packing the particle in the polymeric material" (page 15, 2nd paragraph, lines 13-14). The specification further represents the inventive method as a "successful formation of a polymer-particle composite exhibiting a uniform dispersion of the particle as being packed throughout a polymeric material..." (page 31, 1st paragraph, lines 8-10). Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the inclusion of such elements in the claims is fully supported by the specification.

In view of the aforesaid, the Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are in a condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas S. Rupert
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,434

Dated: 5/9, 2003

WILDMAN, HARROLD, ALLEN & DIXON
225 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1229
Telephone: (312) 201-2000
Facsimile: (312) 201-2555